



Industry Update Summer 2011/12

Pestoff is the Registered Trade Mark of Animal Control Products Ltd, 408 Heads Road, Whanganui, New Zealand



Season's Greetings from the staff and management of
Animal Control Products Limited

SMALL ISLANDS OFFER LARGE GAINS

While Macquarie Island (12,800ha) is the largest rodent eradication operation ever carried out, three small islands in NW New Caledonia totalling only 37 hectares, have illustrated the importance in the global context, of more modest eradication projects.



Tahiti Petrel

In 2008, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation funded a project carried out by SCO (BirdLife in New Caledonia) and the BirdLife Pacific Secretariat, to eradicate ship rats *Rattus rattus* and pacific rats *Rattus exulans* from

these three important seabird islands. The work involved using Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R.

Follow-up surveys in July 2011 have confirmed that Table, Double and Tiam'bouène islands are all officially rat-free and bird populations are already showing signs of recovery.

The islands are globally important for Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*, Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, Fairy Tern *Sterna nereis*, Dark-brown Honeyeater *Lichmera incana* and Green-backed White-eye *Zosterops xanthochroa* which were being preyed by introduced rats.

The Fairy Tern, a species classified as Vulnerable, nested on the islands for the first time in 2010 with Tiam'bouène hosting a colony of 28 active nests. The Near Threatened Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata* was seen on Table Island in July 2011. On each island, along with many new bird species being recorded, SCO report that the eco-systems are also showing

positive signs of recovery. The next steps are to continue monitoring the biodiversity recovery of the islands, seek the creation of nature reserves to protect the tern colonies from human disturbance, and to expand rat eradication to additional islands within the management zone.



Fairy Tern

Photos supplied courtesy of Julien Baudat-Franceschi SCO, Antenne Nord - BP 236, 98 822 Poindimié, New Caledonia.

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After 2 years of absorbing increasing costs, ACP will increase its prices on 1 January 2012. The price increases reflect on-going increases in the cost of overheads and raw materials. For a copy of the price list which comes into effect from 1 January 2012, please email Raewyn at: orders@pestoff.co.nz

HI-STRENGTH BENEFITS

Ten years after Pestoff Brodifacoum Possum Bait came to market and proved its worth as a tool for maintaining low possum densities over wide areas, Pestoff Hi-Strength Possum Bait was registered for use only by pest control agencies and professional pest control operators working on vector control and conservation operations.

Over the 5 years it has been on the market, Pestoff Hi-Strength Possum Bait has proven itself capable of knocking down moderate possum densities quickly and holding them at low levels with much fewer bait pulses and less bait than is needed when using the standard product.

At \$51 plus GST per 10kg bag Pestoff Hi-Strength is only 25% dearer than the standard product while being more than twice as effective and providing labour and transport savings.

There is a very low risk of sub-lethally dosing possums when using Hi-Strength. With 2.5 times more active in the same bait matrix, Hi-Strength delivers great value for money, also allowing overall bait volumes to be reduced by up to 70%.

Past assessments have shown that the environmental risk posed by Hi-Strength is actually much lower than for standard bait, because fewer pulses and much shorter bait application periods are needed.

***** DECAL PROMOTION ***** 20% OFF UNTIL 31 JANUARY 2012

Pestoff Decal Possum Bait is available ex-stock and until 31 January 2012, ACP will run a **20% off** special on the product at \$140 per 10kg bag plus GST.

Pestfeed Plus, the essential prefeed for DECAL is available in 10kg bags at \$24 each plus GST.

The specially formulated Pestfeed Plus contains a pre-cursor compound which elevates the possum's blood calcium levels. This significantly increases the possums' susceptibility to the lethal condition called hypercalcaemia which occurs when the animals are fed with baits containing high levels of Vitamin D3 (cholecalciferol).

Due to the comparatively small amount of bait needed, the cost of

possum control using DECAL is less than the cost of most of the alternative toxins and products, with the exception of 1080 pellets.



1080 GUIDELINES AVAILABLE

The aerial 1080 guidelines published in April 2011 are a response to the ERMA New Zealand 2007 decision on the reassessment of 1080 that "management practices around aerial drops of 1080 be standardised around industry or operational best practice".

The guidelines were, therefore, prepared primarily for practitioners involved in managing and undertaking aerial 1080 pest control, to provide them with:

- an overview of best practice,
- a framework for managing critical risks, and
- guidance on the regulatory requirements that must be met.

The document focuses on risk management at all the stages of an aerial 1080 operation, once the decision has been made to carry out a 1080 drop. It covers:

- **pre-operational planning**, consultation and obtaining of consents and permissions;
- **practical preparation** for carrying out the drop;
- the **aerial 1080 operation** itself;
- the **post-operational** monitoring, communication and reporting.

A free copy can be downloaded or ordered from the NPCA web site:

www.npca.org.nz

CARE NEEDED WITH BULK BAGS

The use of bulk bags to speed up the handling of bait at aircraft loading sites is proving increasingly popular, but bulk bags do need to be managed more carefully during cold weather periods. This is particularly true for RS5 baits which are very prone to becoming soft in the presence of any moisture.

The need to care for bulk bags in storage or transport stems from the fact that while ambient air temperature can drop very quickly, the mass of bait within the bag cools much more slowly and this can cause condensation to form on the inner wall of the bag.

The most effective way of avoiding this situation is to open the top of all bulk bags being placed in storage. This increases the speed at which any latent warmth or condensation is lost from the bags when ambient temperature outside the bags drops.

Expanded NZBI/NPCA Conference in 2012

NPCA and the New Zealand Biosecurity Institute (NZBI) have signed a memorandum of understanding to merge their conferences from 2012.

Both organisations see mutual benefits in working together to provide an aligned and expanded NETS conference (National Education and Technology Seminar) that will function as New Zealand's one and only biosecurity-focused best practice annual event. The merger will bring together all those who work in the control of terrestrial and aquatic, plant and animal pests. NPCA will bring its specialist focus on vertebrate pests to the NETS conferences, including training opportunities based on its best practice publications. To avoid running two conferences 6 months apart, the NPCA will replace its 2011 conference with an expanded Annual General Meeting in November this year. The first combined NETS conference will be held in Taupo in July 2012.



Pedro Jensen (NZBI President) and Bill Martyn (NPCA Chair) sign the MOU.



NEWS BRIEFS

ACP CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

ACP will close for business at 11.30am on Wednesday 21 December 2011 and will re-open at 8.00am on Monday 9 January 2012. Customers requiring orders for production during January would be well advised to submit these in early November to ensure that deadlines for delivery are met.

PAMPHLETS AVAILABLE

Our clients often ask for more information about our products than offered by the label directions alone. The request most commonly comes from novice users of products not requiring a CSL and from the coordinators of community pest control initiatives such as self-help possum programmes and community-driven mainland island projects. Three pamphlets are available for **Pestoff Brodifacoum Possum Bait**, **Pestoff Decal Possum Bait** and **Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R**. These can be obtained in limited quantities from ACP at no charge. Phone Raewyn on 0800 224 423 for your requirements. The pamphlets are also viewable through the PRODUCTS page of the ACP web site at www.pestoff.co.nz

X-VERMINATOR TOP SELLS IN OZ

ACP's rodenticides being sold to Australian retail and commercial distributors under the brand name "X-Verminator" were launched in Australia by Bell-Booth Ltd during August 2010 and were this year were showcased at Rosehill, Sydney during a pest expo. "Sales volumes have absolutely exceeded expectations for the first year", reports merchandise manager Ben Bell-Booth.

"This was assisted by a rodent plague breaking out in the aftermath of the Queensland floods and after other unusual weather events across the south and east of Australia," he said.

SURVEY LUCKY DRAW WINNERS

The lucky draw winner of the 2010 ACP customer survey was Peter Nichol of Tuakau. Peter won \$250 cash from ACP. Thanks to all of those customers who returned completed questionnaires. The draw for the 2011 survey will be on 1 December 2011.

21 YEARS OF EVOLUTION

The mix of sowing rates, pellet sizes, pellet types, toxic loadings and lures which are employed by operators carrying out broad scale aerial possum control has progressively evolved over the years.

The results being achieved indicate that this evolution has significantly improved possum control outcomes and reduced costs.

In 1990, "one-shot" (toxic only) operations using 16mm/7 gram pellets applied at 5kg per hectare, were standard procedure for pellet operations. About 50% of aerial operations used carrot bait. Most pellet operations used 0.15% 1080 bait loadings but still around 25% of operations used 0.08% 1080. While cinnamon was the predominant lure of choice, about 30% of operations used one of the alternative lures including orange, spearmint, eucalyptus, lemon or all-spice. RS5 pellets were used in the more arid zones of the South Island while No.7 bait was used over the North Island and in the West Coast and Southland regions. In 1990, Wanganui Aero Work was the first company to employ GPS navigation for aerial 1080 operations. It used Trimble gear over Egmont National Park. At this time operations usually achieved better than 90% kills or around 3% - 5% RTCI, in spite of most pilots flying "by the eye" rather than off the light bar on a GPS unit.

In 2011 all aerial possum control operations were pre-fed; about 85% of

this pre-feed comprised 16mm/7 gram baits, the balance being 20mm/12 gram baits. Sowing rates were generally in the range 1-2kg per hectare for pre-feed and 2 to 3kg per hectare for toxic. All toxic pellets used were 0.15% 1080 and 20mm/12 gram baits except for some of the operations where rats were the primary target and 16mm/7 gram pellets were used. Lures were around 60% cinnamon and 40% orange with no other lures being represented. RS5 pellets are now used across the whole of the South Island. GPS is now a standard requirement for all operations and sub 1% RTCI is a commonly achieved. Carrot bait is now used in very few operations.

Comparison	1990	2011
Toxic bait sowing rate	5kg/ha	2-3kg/ha
Toxic bait size	16mm/7g	20mm/12g
Toxic bait 1080 concentration.	25% 0.08% 75% 0.15%	All 0.15%
Pre-feed bait sowing rate	None	1-2kg/ha
Pre-feed size	None	16mm/7g
Lure type	Cinnamon 70% Orange plus others 30%	Cinnamon 60% Orange 40%
GPS used	Seldom	Always
Pellet type	No.7 NI, West Coast & Sthld RS5 E&N SI	No.7 North Is RS5 South Is
Outcome	Usually 3-5% RTCI	Usually sub1% RTCI

LESS THAN 30 RABBITS LEFT

Less than 30 introduced European Rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* are thought to remain on Macquarie Island, where rats, mice and rabbits were the targets of a major pest-eradication exercise this year.

Rabbits were taken to the island in about 1877 as a food source for sealers. They increased to between 100,000 – 150,000 prior to the eradication.

Twelve specially trained hunting dogs and 14 human hunters, six of whom double as dog-handlers, have divided the island into six hunting sections.

Each block is patrolled two hunters, one of whom is also a dog handler with one or two dogs.

Their task will be to search their block for any sign of rabbits and once this is found they can trap, fumigate burrows, use firearms or apply poison baits in small-scale, localised poisoning campaigns targeting specific rabbits."

There have been no reports of rats or mice following the initial and follow-up aerial bait drops which used around 300 tonnes of Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R this winter. So far five rabbits have been killed by the ground control teams since the aerial drops. Keith Springer, formerly of Whanganui is leading the operation which also involves pest industry identities Peter "Stumpy" Preston and Gary "Glitter" Bowcock.

NEW LOOK WEB SITE

ACP has re-vamped its web site, given it a new look with faster access for those seeking specific information.

The photography of the well known, Wellington-based nature photographer Rob Suisted has been used to “kiwi-fi” the home page, safety data sheets have recently been updated along with product information and labels.

There are pamphlets available for download, retailer addresses and a contact us/send comments sections.

A copy of this newsletter and back-copies are also present in the publications section.



MORE ROOK BAITS

A third party application to NZFSA is being prepared for DRC1339 to provide additional bait types for use against rooks.

The application will be supported by extensive data collected on historical work using the alternative baits. Most of these data were collected by Dave Hunter, who almost eradicated rooks from Canterbury 15 years ago.

UPDATED TB STRATEGY WELL UNDER WAY

The updated national bovine TB strategy came into effect on 1 July 2011. This followed government approval of five years of funding, supporting contributions from the farming sector and regional councils.

The strategy will continue to focus on protecting the reputation and value of New Zealand’s high-quality dairy, beef and deer exports, worth more than \$12 billion a year.

The primary objective over the next 15 years is to eradicate TB from infected wildlife vectors, primarily possums, across one quarter of the 10 million hectares in New Zealand known to be TB high-risk areas.

Secondary objectives are preventing the establishment of TB in disease-free areas and keeping infected herd numbers as low as possible.

Limited funds means the Animal Health Board has to specify certain types of wildlife control in areas infected wildlife are known to inhabit. There are three strategic choices. These are: TB eradication – these are areas where TB will be eradicated from possums by the end of the strategy in 15 years’ time. Control work will see pos-

sum populations reduced to extremely low levels in these areas to stop the cycle of the disease. Two heavily forested operational areas have been chosen to prove that it is possible to eradicate the disease from difficult terrain. These are the Hauhungaroa Range west of Taupo and the Hokonui Hills in Southland.

TB Free Area Protection – these are essentially buffer zones between infected and disease-free areas to prevent TB from spreading into “clear” areas which comprise some 60 per cent of New Zealand.

Infected herd suppression – the focus in these areas is to keep infected livestock herd numbers as low as possible. Regular TB testing, movement restrictions and slaughtering support wild animal control work in these areas. As funding becomes available, additional areas will be targeted for TB eradication.

Nationally, the AHB is committed to protecting the significant gains made to date. These have seen infected herd numbers fall from more than 1700 in 1994 to around 80 at the end of June 2011.

(Article supplied by AHB)

CSL EXPIRED?? WE NEED THE NEW DETAILS

More than 120 of our customers’ Controlled Substances Licenses (CSLs) have expired during the last year.

We need copies of **both** sides of your current CSL before we can sell you controlled substances including 1080, cyanide, phosphorus, DRC1339 or Pindone. **PLEASE** send a clear scanned or hard copy of your CSL if you plan to order these products. We will verify the details with EPA and you will not need to send the CSL again for subsequent orders. Thank you.

